

What is claimed is:

1. A device for closing an opening in a tissue, the device comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;
5 a foot on the distal end of the shaft, the foot being movable with respect to the shaft; and
a flexible guidebody extending from the distal end of the shaft.
2. The device of claim 1, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire
10 lumen.
3. The device of claim 2, wherein the flexible guidebody has a distal end,
wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire entry port at the flexible
guidebody distal end, and wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire exit
15 port situated along the flexible guidebody at a location proximal to the guidewire entry port.
4. The device of claim 3, wherein the guidewire exit port is situated at a location
distal to the distal end of the shaft.
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5. The device of claim 1, wherein a portion of the shaft curves such that the
flexible guidebody extends from the shaft at an angle relative to an axis of the shaft.
6. The device of claim 1, further comprising a length of suture supported by the
25 foot, the length of suture having a first end and a second end, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a lumen, and wherein the length of suture between the first end and the second end extends distally within the lumen of the flexible guidebody.
7. The device of claim 1, further comprising a needle advanceable from the shaft
30 through the tissue and to the foot when the foot is moved to a deployed position.
8. The device of claim 1, wherein the tissue is a wall of a blood vessel.

9. A method for closing an opening in a tissue, the method comprising:
providing a shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, a flexible guidebody
extending from the distal end of the shaft, the shaft having a movable foot at the distal
5 end of the shaft; and
inserting the flexible guidebody through the opening, the flexible guidebody
guiding the shaft to the opening.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising partially withdrawing the flexible
10 guidebody from the opening to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.
11. The method of claim 9, further comprising using a guidewire to guide the
flexible guidebody through the opening.
- 15 12. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
moving the foot from a parked position to a deployed position;
forming a needle path from the shaft through the tissue; and
advancing a suture through the tissue along the needle path to position a suture
loop across the opening.
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13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
securing the suture loop to close the opening; and
fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the opening after the suture
loop is at least partially secured.
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14. The method of claim 9, wherein the tissue is a wall of a blood vessel.
15. A device for closing an opening in a tissue, the device comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end and a distal end, a portion of the shaft being
30 curved adjacent the distal end; and
a flexible guidebody extending from the distal end of the shaft at an angle
relative to an axis of the shaft.

16. The device of claim 15, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire lumen.

5 17. The device of claim 16, wherein the flexible guidebody has a distal end, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire entry port at the flexible guidebody distal end, and wherein the flexible guidebody defines a guidewire exit port situated along the flexible guidebody at a location proximal to the guidewire entry port.

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18. The device of claim 17, wherein the guidewire exit port is situated at a location distal to the distal end of the shaft.

15 19. The device of claim 15, further comprising a foot near the distal end of the shaft, the foot being movable with respect to the shaft.

20. The device of claim 19, further comprising a length of suture supported by the foot, the length of suture having a first end and a second end.

20 21. The device of claim 15, wherein the flexible guidebody defines a suture storage lumen.

22. The device of claim 19, further comprising a needle advanceable from the shaft through the tissue and to the foot when the foot is in a deployed position.

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23. A method for closing an opening in a tissue, the method comprising:
providing a shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, a flexible guidebody extending from the distal end of the shaft, the shaft having a movable foot at the distal end of the shaft; and

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inserting the flexible guidebody through the opening; and
partially withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the opening to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising using a guidewire to guide the flexible guidebody through the opening.

5 25. The method of claim 23, wherein the opening in the tissue is accessed through a tissue tract through subcutaneous tissue.

26. The method of claim 23, further comprising:
forming a needle path from the shaft through the vessel wall; and
10 advancing a suture through the vessel wall along the needle path to position a suture loop across the opening.

27. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
securing the suture loop to close the opening; and
15 fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the vessel after the suture loop is at least partially secured.

28. A method for closing an opening in a tissue, the method comprising:
providing a shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, a flexible guidebody
20 extending from the distal end of the shaft, the shaft having a movable foot at the distal end of the shaft; and
using a guidewire to guide the flexible guidebody through the opening.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising partially withdrawing the flexible
25 guidebody from the opening to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.

30. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
forming a needle path from the shaft through the tissue adjacent the opening;
and
30 advancing a suture through the tissue along the needle path to position a suture loop across the opening.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising:
securing the suture loop to close the opening; and
fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the vessel after the suture loop
is at least partially secured.

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32. A method for closing an opening in a vessel wall of a blood vessel, the
opening disposed within a tissue tract of a patient body, the method comprising:
providing a shaft having a distal end and a proximal end, a flexible guidebody
extending from the distal end of the shaft, wherein a portion of the shaft has a curve
such that the flexible guidebody extends from the shaft at an angle relative to an axis
of the shaft; and

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inserting the flexible guidebody through the opening into the vessel such that
the flexible guidebody is positioned coaxially within the vessel and the shaft is
positioned coaxially within the tissue tract.

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33. The method of claim 32, wherein the shaft includes a movable foot at the
distal end of the shaft, the foot being movable from a parked position to a deployed
position, wherein the foot is aligned with the vessel when in the deployed position.

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34. The method of claim 32, further comprising partially withdrawing the flexible
guidebody from the vessel to reduce a flow of blood through the opening.

35. The method of claim 32, further comprising using a guidewire to guide the
flexible guidebody through the opening and into the blood vessel.

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36. The method of claim 32, further comprising:
forming a needle path from the shaft through the vessel wall; and
advancing a suture through the vessel wall along the needle path to position a
suture loop across the opening.

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37. The method of claim 36, further comprising:
securing the suture loop to close the opening; and

fully withdrawing the flexible guidebody from the vessel after the suture loop is at least partially secured.